

State of South Carolina

1612 Marion Street
P.O. Box 1715
Columbia, S.C. 29202-1715



Tel: (803) 737-5700
Fax: (803) 737-5768
www.wcc.sc.gov

Workers' Compensation Commission

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission is considering revising the fee for independent medical examinations (IMEs). Currently the maximum allowable payment for an independent medical examination is \$600.

The American Medical Association defines an independent medical examination, Physicians Current Procedural Terminology Code 99456, as a work related or medical disability examination by other than the treating physician that includes: completion of a medical history commensurate with the patient's condition, performance of an examination commensurate with the patient's condition; formulation of a diagnosis, assessment of capabilities and stability, and calculation of impairment; development of future medical treatment plan; and completion of necessary documentation/certificates and report.

The maximum allowable payment (MAP) represents the maximum amount that a provider can legally be paid for an independent medical exam. In instances where the provider's usual charge is lower than the MAP, or where the provider has agreed by contract with an employer or insurance carrier to accept discounts or fees lower than the Commission's MAP, payment is made at the lower amount.

Anyone interested in submitting comments or recommendations concerning the price for an IME should send their comments to the Kandee Johnson, South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, Post Office Box 1715, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1715, or via email at kjohnson@wcc.sc.gov. To allow time for full consideration, comments must be submitted by April 30, 2009. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Ms. Johnson at 803.737.5744 or at the email address above.